



Calendar:

[National Poison Prevention Week](#)

March 14-20

[2010 Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#)

March 15-17

[Impaired Driving Prevention – St. Patrick's Day](#)

March 17

[Communicating What's Important – Cell Phones, Productivity and Traffic Safety](#)

FREE Webinar

March 24

[Traffic Safety Conference](#)

March 29-31

[Alcohol Awareness Month](#)

April

[2010 Lifesavers Conference](#)

April 10-13

[Click It or Ticket – Memorial Day](#)

May

[Texas Safety Summit](#)

May 18-20

35,300

Motor vehicle deaths in 2009 totaled 35,300, the lowest number since 1950. The decrease is attributable to the poor economy, along with an increase in distracted driving, teen driving, safety belt and child passenger awareness.

This issue contains important new information for Texas employers. In an effort to help organizations better protect employees and their families, the U.S. Department of Transportation has made several improvements. This includes a new texting ban for commercial truck and bus drivers, as well as changes to employer drug and alcohol testing procedures.

There's still time to register for this FREE Webinar!

Title: Communicating What's Important – Cell Phones, Productivity and Traffic Safety

Presented by: Deborah Trombley and Jennifer Smith

Date: March 24, 2010

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 CST

View the event description and [register](#) today.

If you are unable to attend, watch for the [recorded Webinar](#) in the weeks following the presentation.

Trucks and Texting Don't Mix

In January, the Department of Transportation announced a new rule banning all commercial truck and bus drivers from texting behind the wheel. Drivers caught texting face fines up to \$2,750.

"The U.S. DOT and FMCSA have taken further measures to ensure that our industry remains safe and eliminate the threat of texting while driving with the federal ban for motor carriers," said John Esparza, president and CEO of the Texas Motor Transportation Association.

Watch this [video](#) of a San Antonio bus driver texting back in June 2008.

Does Your Organization Have Any Policies Regarding Distracted Driving?

Allowing employees to conduct business on either hands-free or handheld cell phones while driving represents acceptance of a 4 times increase in crash risk. The National Safety Council has developed a free [Cell Phone Policy Kit](#) to help you build leadership support for a company policy and tools for communicating the risk to employees.

It's important to note that last fall when NSC surveyed its members, 99 percent of respondents with policies prohibiting cell phone use while driving said they saw no decrease in productivity. [Download the kit](#) to help create or upgrade your policy today.

Keep Texas Moving

Have you visited [keptexasmoving.com](#) lately? The TxDOT campaign, launched in 2008, aims to ease transportation woes. Keep Texas Moving addresses the transportation issues Texas is facing, including increased congestion and reduced maintenance.

[Learn](#) what TxDOT is doing to improve roadways in your area.

Employer Drug and Alcohol Testing Procedures

The Department of Transportation has proposed new procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs. In an effort to align regulated-industry drug testing with the Department of Health and Human Services, DOT will be asked to follow HHS testing procedures and protocol requirements.

Additional proposals include:

- Testing for MDMA (also known as ecstasy)
- Lowering cutoff levels for cocaine and amphetamines
- Conducting mandatory initial testing for heroin
- Authorizing employers to use HHS-certified Instrumented Initial Test Facilities

[Learn more](#) (link to pdf document from website)

Get the Texas Challenge!

The NSC Texas Challenge Injury Facts [quiz](#) is the newest way to educate employees about driving risks. The Texas Challenge provides a weekly question and safety tips directly related to Texas roadways.

Ways to use the Texas Challenge:

- Download and print posters linked in the quiz to hang around the building and share with employees.
- Use the quiz to reward employees for learning about driving risks.
- Share the quiz with audiences beyond employees, including customers, vendors and citizens in the community.

Free Materials for Texas Employers

Order innovative payroll stuffers and information cards specifically created for you to communicate with your employees.

[Paper cutouts](#) address the dangers associated with distracted driving, non-use of safety belts and impaired driving. These materials are a great way to communicate the risks of unsafe driving behaviors to employees and their families.

In addition to ordering print copies, you also can download, print and share these materials electronically in your own employee communications. To download, click on the PDF link on the shopping cart page.

(Feedback)

Our Driving Concern would love to hear your workplace safety success stories, problems and questions. Please send an e-mail to our Peer Advice column at Debby.Young@nsc.org and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employers.

(Links to Resources)

FocusDriven

<http://www.focusdriven.org>

Keep Texas Moving – TxDOT

<http://www.keeptexasmoving.com/>

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

Office of the Federal Register

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>

Stop Impaired Driving

<http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org>

Texas Department of Transportation

<http://www.txdot.gov/>

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program

<http://www.txdrivingconcern.org>

Texas Safety Conference & Expo
<http://www.nsctexexpo.com/>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
<http://www.hhs.gov/>

U.S. Department of Transportation
<http://www.dot.gov/>

(Boilerplate)

Our Driving Concern is a monthly e-newsletter from the Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program, a landmark driving initiative funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. This initiative is building a statewide network of employer involvement in crash prevention for employees both on and off the job. Because you care about your employees and their families, and keeping employees safe means keeping your business healthy, this newsletter provides you with traffic safety resources from across the state. Visit us at www.txdrivingconcern.org.

Please send safety comments, experiences, stories or questions to:

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